

The third upper incisor is but little longer than the second, and has the external fold close to its posterior border. The milk-molars are still retained; but the premolar, when exposed in the maxillary, is found to be only slightly longer than the first true molar, the former measuring .27, and the latter .22 of an inch.

This interesting Kangaroo bears a striking superficial likeness to *Dorcopsis luctuosa* (D'Alb.)—a resemblance which, along with its generally sad-coloured coat, suggests the specific name proposed. Even externally, however, it may be at once distinguished by the direction of the hair of the nape, the nearly naked scaly tail, and the uniform brown of the upper parts, while its dentition at once shows it to be not a *Dorcopsis* but a true *Macropus*.

When Mr. Garrod first clearly established the distinctions between *Dendrolagus*, *Dorcopsis* and *Macropus*<sup>1</sup>, only one species of the last genus was known to inhabit the Austro-Malayan Subregion, namely *M. bruni* (Schreb.), from the Aru and Ké Islands. Since then two species have been described from New Guinea—*M. papuanus* by Dr. Peters, from the eastern extremity of the island<sup>2</sup>, and *Halmaturus crassipes* by Mr. E. Pierson Ramsay, from Port Moresby<sup>3</sup>. From all of these, as well as from all the Australian species, *M. lugens* appears to be perfectly distinct. In the character of the covering of the tail it most resembles *M. papuanus*, from which, however, it differs in its entirely bare muffle, and in the proportions of its upper incisors, as well as in coloration.

I trust that Mr. Brown may soon be able to procure fully adult examples of this Kangaroo, and also to give us information as to the exact habitat of this and the other species contained in his collection.

#### 4. On a Collection of Reptiles and Fishes from Duke-of-York Island, New Ireland, and New Britain. By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, V.P.Z.S.

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(Plates XX. & XXI.)

A collection of Reptiles made by the Rev. G. Brown on Duke-of-York Island forms a valuable contribution to the very scanty knowledge we possess at present of the Reptiles of New Ireland and New Britain. Indeed, since the visit of the French naturalists Lesson and Garnot, those islands have been entirely neglected, only a few species having reached European collections from the neighbouring Solomon Islands. The species forming this first collection of Mr. Brown, are not sufficient in number to base upon them a more precise conclusion than that arrived at by Mr. Wallace, who appears to

<sup>1</sup> "On the Kangaroo called *Halmaturus luctuosus* by D'Albertis and its Affinities," P. Z. S. 1875, pp. 48-59, pls. vii.-ix.

<sup>2</sup> Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, vii. p. 544 (1875).

<sup>3</sup> Proc. Linn. Soc. New S. Wales, i. p. 162 (1876).

be quite correct in including these islands in his Austro-Malayan sub-region, as will be seen from the following list, in which I have noted the geographical range of each species.

### *List of Reptiles.*

#### LIZARDS :

1. *Monitor chlorostigma*, Cuv. .... Celebes, Ceram, New Guinea, North Australia, Solomon Islands.
2. *Eumeces albofasciolatus*, Gthr. .... North Australia.
3. *Hinulia megaspila*, sp. n.
4. *Keneuxia smaragdina*, Less. .... Ceram, Amboyna, Philippines, Pelew Island, New Guinea.
5. *Mabouia carteretii*, D. & B. .... New Ireland, New Guinea, Amboyna, and Wokan (*Doria*).
6. *Mabouia cyanura*, Less. .... Amboyna, Mysol, New Guinea, hence throughout Polynesia.
7. *Mabouia nigra*, Hombr. & Jacq. .... Fiji Islands, Samoa Islands, Contrariété Island.
8. *Gecko vittatus*, Latr. .... Mysol, Ceram, Amboyna, New Guinea, Aru Islands.
9. *Hypselurus macrolepis*, Ptrs. .... Pelew and Solomon Islands.

#### SNAKES :

1. *Lielaphis modestus*, Schleg. .... Ceram, Amboyna, Mysol, Aru Islands.
2. *Tropidonotus hypomelas*, sp. n.
3. *Dendrophis solomonis*, Gthr. .... Solomon Island.
4. *Dendrophis macrops*, sp. n.
5. *Dipsas irregularis*, Merr. .... Celebes, Ceram, Amboyna, Mysol, Sangi Isl., New Guinea, Key Isl.
6. *Liasis amethystinus*, Schneid. .... Ceram, Mysol, Aru and Key Islands, New Ireland.
7. *Nardoa schlegelii*, Gray. .... New Ireland.
8. *Exygus carinatus*, Schneid. .... Ceram, Amboyna, Mysol, New Guinea.
9. *Erebophis asper*, g. et sp. n.
10. *Diemenia mülleri*, Schleg. .... New Guinea, North Ceram.
11. *Platurus fasciatus*, Daud. .... Throughout the East Indian archipelago and Polynesia.

### *Descriptive Notes.*

#### HINULIA MEGASPILA, sp. n. (Plate XX.)

Resembles *H. (Eumeces) aruensis* in shape and general appearance. No supranasal shields. Lower eyelids scaly. Internasal broad and short, transversely linear, separated from the vertical by two frontals, which are broadly in contact with each other. In *E. aruensis* the vertical is in contact with the internasal. Postnasals two, small and lateral, followed by a single large loreal; upper labials eight. Ear-opening large, oval, without prominent scales; forty-one or forty-seven longitudinal series of scales round the body; about fifty-eight transverse series between the fore and hind limbs; two larger præ-anal plates, with some smaller lateral ones. The fore limbs reach to the middle of the eye when stretched forward, the hind limbs somewhat beyond the middle of the trunk. Fingers and toes short; third and fourth fingers equal and longer than the second; fourth hind toe the longest; third longer than the fifth. Colour brown;

three large round black spots on the side of the neck; the first above the ear-opening, the second immediately behind it, the third above the axil; a series of numerous smaller black irregular spots along the upper part of the sides. Sides finely mottled with black striæ. Lower parts whitish; throat of one specimen with three blackish longitudinal bands, the middle being much less distinct than the lateral.

Total length.....	in.	lin.
Distance of the snout from the eye.....	8	0
"                    "            ear.....		3½
"                    "            axil.....	1	5
"                    "            vent.....	3	11
Length of fore limb.....	1	0
"          third finger.....		2½
"          hind limb.....	1	6
"          second toe.....		2
"          third toe.....		3
"          fourth toe.....		5½
"          fifth toe.....		3

#### LIELAPHIS MODESTUS.

A Snake widely spread in the Austro-Malayan region, varying in some points which may generally be relied upon as constant characters, and showing affinities to several very distinct types, hence often misunderstood, and appearing in the literature under many denominations. It is distinguished by a depressed head, with rather broad snout, small eye, and subvertical pupil, appearing round when expanded. Normally two shields in front and behind the eye; but these shields are frequently confluent into one, sometimes on one side of the specimen only; sometimes the lower præocular coalesces with the loreal. Seven (very rarely eight) upper labials, the third and fourth entering the orbit. Arrangement of the temporals irregular and variable. Body elongate, slightly compressed, the ventral scutes showing more or less lateral keels, which disappear entirely in large females. Scales smooth, in seventeen rows. Ventral scutes varying between 180 and 212; anal entire; subcaudals double, exceptionally confluent into a single series. The maxillary series of teeth is formed by from ten to twelve teeth, the front teeth being the smallest; they increase in strength towards the middle of the bone, one or two before the penultimate being again smaller; the penultimate is sometimes as long as, sometimes a little longer than, the middle, sometimes not separated by an interspace from the preceding, sometimes separated by a very small space only; the last tooth generally, again, is small: it is not rarely altogether doubtful whether the dentition of a specimen should be considered diacranterian or syncranterian; but it is never lycodont.

The coloration is very uniform, above dark, below lighter, the dark colour sometimes descending on the scutes, the light sometimes



ascending on the sides. Specimens from Ceram and Amboyna show generally a light colour.

To this species I refer now the following Snakes, described by various authors :—

- 1837. *Lycodon modestus*, Schleg. Essai ii. p. 119 ; from Amboyna.
- 1854. *Lycodon modestum* and *L. lividum*, Dum. & Bibr. pp. 380 and 381 ; from Amboyna and Pulo Samao.
- 1861. *Ablabes greineri*, Bleeker, Rept. of Amboyna ; from Amboyna.
- 1861. *Coronella rosenbergii*, Bleeker, Rept. of Ceram ; from Ceram.
- 1863. *Lielaphis holochrous*, Günther, P. Z. S. p. 59 ; from Ceram.
- 1874. *Lycodon aruensis*, Doria, Ann. Mus. Gen. p. 352 ; from the Aru Islands.

The specimens which I have examined are from Ceram, Mysol, and Amboyna ; and they differ less among each other than the two specimens from the Duke-of-York Island. Both have a syncraterian dentition (ten teeth) ; but one has eight upper labials, all the subcaudals divided, and 197 ventrals ; the other has seven upper labials, 180 ventrals, and, singularly enough, only the first two and the last nineteen subcaudals divided, the sixty-three middle ones being entire.

Other species belong to the same genus, and one or the other may eventually prove to be identical with the one described, viz. :—

*Lielaphis batjanensis*, Gthr., from Batjan.

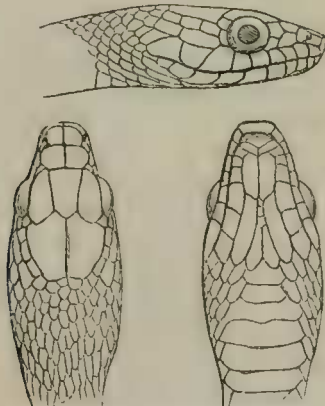
*Zamenophis australis*, Gthr., from Cape York, with which *Lycodon keyensis* of Doria, from the Key Islands, appears to be identical.

*Lycodon parvus*, Meyer, from Jobi.

#### TROPIDONOTUS HYPOMELAS, sp. n.

Body very slender ; head moderately long and deep ; eye large ;

Fig. 1.



Head of *Tropidonotus hypomelas*.

scales in seventeen rows, all keeled; ventrals 196, anal bifid; subcaudals 99; anterior frontals truncated in front; loreal as high as long; two præoculars, the upper just reaching to the upper surface of the head; three postoculars, the lower of which is the narrowest and smallest; 9 upper labials, the fifth and sixth entering the orbit; temporals 2+3, the two anterior in contact with the postocular. The dentition is syncranterian, almost isodont. Upper parts brownish olive, with small blackish and whitish spots longitudinally arranged. Lower part of the anterior half of the trunk whitish, with a series of black spots along the median line of the abdomen, each scute having a black spot. In the middle of the length of the trunk the dark colour of the sides gradually encroaches on the scutes, which, on the hinder half of the body and on the tail, are uniform blackish.

One specimen, thirty-two inches long, the length of the tail being nine inches.

#### DENDROPHIS MACROPS, sp. n.

This Snake is distinguished from *Dendrophis solomonis* by its large eye, the diameter of which exceeds its distance from the nostril. Scales in thirteen rows; loreal large, longer than high; eight or nine upper labials, two of which enter the orbit; one præocular

Fig. 2.



Head of *Dendrophis macrops*.

not extending to the vertical; two postoculars; temporals irregularly arranged, 2+2+2; ventrals 195, strongly keeled; subcaudals 140; vertebral scales of moderate size; upper parts uniform olive-coloured; scales with an elongate white spot on the outer margin; upper part of head brownish olive; lower parts uniform greenish.

One specimen, forty-six inches long, the tail being fourteen inches.

#### EREBOPHIS, g. n. *Erycid*.

Body stout and thick, covered with short scales, which are arranged in numerous rows, and provided with exceedingly strong keels. Head resembling that of a Crotaline snake, covered above and on the side with numerous scales; rostral flat, truncated, oblique, not extending to the upper surface of the snout; nostril very small, in the middle of an oblong shield; eyes small, surrounded by small scales; ventrals rather narrow; tail very short, slightly prehensile, with a single series of subcaudals; teeth in both jaws numerous, the anterior of the maxillary, mandible, and palatine bones much enlarged; tongue remarkably slender; no rudiments of hind limbs.

*EREBOPHIS ASPER*, sp. n. (Plate XXI.)

The head of this singular Snake is subtriangular, with high subvertical sides, swollen behind and covered with small, obtusely keeled scales; snout truncated in front, with a distinct canthus rostralis, the nasal plate being immediately below the canthus. Ten or eleven low labial shields form the margin of the upper lip, and are covered with minute tubercles. The skin behind the eye forms a fold with a more or less distinct hollow below it. Thirteen lower labials; gular scales in many series.

The body is very thick and short, distinctly compressed. The scales are short and rounded behind, thick and provided with a strong keel, forming in the middle of the body about forty-one longitudinal series. The longitudinal series do not run parallel to the vertebral line, but gradually descend backwards towards the belly. The three or four outer series of scales are smooth, the outermost being the largest. Ventrals 146; subcaudals 20.

Upper parts dark brown, with indistinct patches of lighter brown. All the lower parts and the smooth lateral series of scales yellowish.

Only one specimen of this highly interesting Snake is in the collection; it is twenty-nine inches long, the head measuring  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inch, and the tail two inches.

## BATRACHIANS.

*PLATYMANTIS PLICIFERA*, Gthr.

Singular as it may appear, the *Platymantis* of Duke-of-York Island is not identical with *P. vitiana* from the Fiji Islands, but with *P. plicifera* from the Philippines. If single examples had been examined, slight differences in the form of the foremost part of the snout and in the length of the hind limb might have been regarded as indicative of specific distinctness; but they prove to be merely individual when the whole series of specimens (five from Duke-of-York Island and six from the Philippines) is examined.

## FISHES.

The species sent by Mr. Brown are twenty-five in number, belonging to the most common forms generally distributed over the tropical parts of the Indo-Pacific region; and as they evidently form but a very small proportion of the fish-fauna of this archipelago, an enumeration of the species would add nothing to our knowledge. However, the collection contained a specimen of *Histioporus typus* (Schleg.), a species hitherto believed to be peculiar to the Japanese seas, and represented on the eastern and southern coasts of Australia by *H. labiosus* and *H. recurvirostris*.